GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4177
ANSWERED ON:16.04.2001
TELEPHONE COMPANIES
T. GOVINDAN

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government while issuing licence to provide telephone facilities to the customers have issued same guidelines to the telephone companies;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the telephone operators have fulfilled their agreement/conditions while providing the facilities to the consumers in urban and rural areas;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the remedial action taken in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The existing six private companies licensed to provide Basic Telephone Service, had voluntarily committed to provide a stipulated number of Direct Exchange Lines (DELs) and Village Public Telephones (VPTs). As against this, the Guidelines announced on 25.1.2001 for fresh licences stipulate the performance obligations in terms of establishment of Point of Presence (POP) in SDCAs (Short Distance Charging Areas). No licences have so far been issued against these guidelines.

(c) No, sir.

(d) Does not arise in view of (c) above.

(e) The private telephone companies have consistently been insisted upon to clear the backlog of missed performance targets and to discharge their committed obligations. It has also been made clear to them that there will not be any dilution in performance obligations committed by them in their Licence Agreements.